



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Response to the Presentation by the Special Representative and Coordinator on Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a. i. Gary Robbins  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 15, 2011

The United States warmly welcomes Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Maria Grazia Giammarinaro back to the Permanent Council today.

We note as a success the Vilnius Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking. This declaration, which featured broad and diverse co-sponsors, underscores that we must work together to combat human trafficking. We appreciate the Special Representative's engagement and her assistance with the adoption of the declaration.

We applaud Ms. Giammarinaro's coordination of a comprehensive strategy to combat modern slavery. Her collaboration with the OSCE Chairperson in the Office of the Special Representative on Gender Issues Wendy Patten highlighted the relationship between the economic empowerment of women and their vulnerability to trafficking. We are pleased that this issue was reflected in the Ministerial Decision No. 10/11 on Promoting Equal Opportunity for Women in the Economic Sphere.

We commend Ms. Giammarinaro's engagement with parliamentarians and her address to the General Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly this past February. Coordination with the OSCE PA is important, and it should come as no surprise that we, in particular, value the cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, U. S. Representative Christopher Smith. We appreciate the July 2011 resolution on Combating Labor Trafficking in Supply Chains, which encouraged parliamentarians to work with the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator to foster political will for a decision or declaration on Labor trafficking.

We commend the Report's advancement of an agenda to increase the protection of vulnerable workers and to explore the factors that contribute to labor exploitation. Having witnessed egregious cases of labor trafficking in the United States, we regard protective measures on Labor practice, including for domestic work, as critical to prevention efforts. Thus, we welcome the components of the Ministerial Declaration which promote administrative measures to prevent labor exploitation, including labor inspection and the monitoring of employment agencies.

The Ministerial Declaration lays the groundwork for further efforts in 2012, and we will continue to support the Special Representative in her activities to help us combat all forms of

human trafficking. We hope that 2012 will provide further opportunity to assess specific vulnerable populations and sectors in the OSCE region, and to build on efforts regarding domestic servitude, including in diplomatic households, which we view as uncharted territory in the fight against trafficking. We also urge participating States to consider ratifying the groundbreaking International Labor Organization Convention 189, and the convention's Recommendation 201 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers in 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.